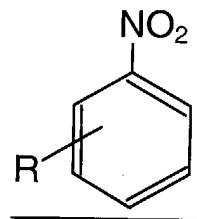


Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) A process for the production of ~~ortho~~-aminophenols ~~an~~ ortho-aminophenol from nitroarenes a nitroarene of the formula



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of -H, -OH, -COOH, -C_nH_{2n+1}, -C₆H₅, -X, -CX₃, -CHO, -OC_nH_{2n+1}, and -O-C₆H₅, wherein n ranges from 1 to 6, and X is F, Cl, Br or I, which comprises transforming said nitroarene to the corresponding hydroxylaminoarene with a metal catalyst and transforming said hydroxylaminoarene to said ortho-aminophenol using a biocatalyst consisting essentially of a mutase enzyme that converts said hydroxylaminoarene to said ortho-aminophenol, and recovering a fraction containing said ortho-aminophenol.

9. (original) The process of claim 8 wherein said metal is zinc.
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)